

'man's volition counts for something as a condition in the course of events'—a belief which, he said, 'can be verified experimentally as often as we like to try, and which, therefore, stands upon the strongest foundation upon which any belief can rest, and forms one of our highest truths.' And I appeal to the consciousness of every one of you whether it does not give you the most distinct and explicit assurance, as often as you like to try the experiment, that your will *has* a power over the movements of your body. Now, when I speak of 'the will,' I wish you to understand that I mean the *Ego* in action. I do not regard the will as a distinct *faculty*. It is merely that *state* in which the *Ego* is purposely and expressly acting either upon the body or upon the mind. I shall show you by and by what a parallelism there is between these two forms of activity; and I think that you will all recognize it in that 'sense of effort' which we experience alike in the performance of bodily movements which are difficult to us, and in the keeping our attention fixed upon some mental object from which some powerful attraction would else withdraw it."

This method of reasoning is the same encountered among lunatics who seek to prove the validity of their hallucinations and delusions. Jonathan Edwards, in his work on the freedom of the will, has shown that the apparent spontaneity of volition to which appeal has been made by Dr. Carpenter is in reality determined by circumstances external to the individual.

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LETTERS OF THE INSANE.—The following case illustrates very vividly the folly of bringing the insane into unlimited relations with the outside world:

Willard Asylum for the Insane, at Ovid, has among its inmates a Danish lady of good education, and who, previous to her insanity, occupied a respectable position in society. Her delusion is that she is immensely wealthy; the queen of the universe. On all other subjects she is relatively rational, and converses with ease and fluency. She has the delusion that the asylum is her castle, built for her special benefit, and that the attendants and inmates are her servants. Recently she managed to elude the vigilance of the attendants and mail a letter to a brother in Denmark, stating that she had become wealthy and was living in a magnificent mansion, surrounded by luxury and attendants, and had abundance to provide for himself and family, and closed by urging him to accept her hospitality and spend the balance of his life with her. Having frequently heard of the good-luck of his countrymen in the land across the sea, he did not have a suspicion but what fortune had favored his sister and that she had actually become rich. He therefore proceeded immediately to close out his little tailoring business, in which he had managed with difficulty to support his family, and with the proceeds purchased tickets for the transportation of his wife and five children to Central New York. Allowing the letter announcing his intention of

coming only a few days' start, the little family took ship for America with light hearts and great expectations. Arriving in New York, they set aside barely sufficient to take them to their destination, and spent the remainder in improving their appearance so that they should not bring discredit upon their rich kinswoman. On reaching Ovid they recognized Willard from the description given in the sister's letter. The cruel disappointment of the brother and his wife was pitiable. Instead of finding a wealthy sister to welcome them to her palatial abode, they found her in a hopeless condition and an inmate of an insane asylum. Letters of the insane should be kept and submitted to some central authority. More than one asylum physician has lost his life from attempting to evade the sending of improper letters of lunatics.

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INSANITY FROM MEASLES.—Dr. M. J. Madigan (*Gaillard's Medical Journal*, October, 1882) reports the following two cases, which tend to support the views of Kräpelin and Clouston as to the influence of measles in the production of insanity :—Case 1 : R. K., aged 22, single ; no ancestral history obtainable. Has always been inclined to "nervousness." Was perfectly well up to two days before coming under observation, when he was attacked by what was thought to be a severe cold, which was soon followed by high fever and the measles eruption. In twenty-four hours the temperature of the patient suddenly sank and he began to complain that his sister had poisoned him. He heard at times, and chiefly on rising in bed, voices denouncing her crimes. On recovering from the measles all these symptoms disappeared. Case 2 : T. O., 26 ; single ; father epileptic ; mother has chorea. The patient had been a bright, healthy boy up to the age of sixteen, when he was attacked by measles. During the entire bronchial symptoms he coughed violently and immediately complained of a violent pain in the head. For three days thereafter he was delirious. He recovered, apparently, from this delirium ; that is, he became quiet and peaceable, but was completely demented, having lost all knowledge of both recent and past events, and was unable to carry on an extended conversation, in which condition he remained. Dr. Wick (*Cincinnati Lancet and Clinic*, March 10, 1883) reports a similar case.

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INSANITY FROM SCARLATINA.—Dr. Wick (*Cincinnati Lancet and Clinic*, March 10, 1883) reports a case of insanity from scarlatina, which corroborates the views expressed by Kräpelin (*Archiv für Psychiatrie*, Band xi.), Rabuske (*Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift*, March 19, 1881), and Kiernan (*JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE*, April, 1882). The patient was a young man. The eruption was considerable, and the case typical in its nature. When the fever subsided the patient suddenly displayed casual hallucinations of a depressing nature, and was restless, sleepless, and loquacious. The psychosis lasted a week, the patient making a good recovery.